

P a t e n t C l a i m s :

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1. A method of detecting a sequence of information symbols from a first signal subjected to inter-symbol interference, wherein each symbol can adopt one of a number of different values, said method being performed as one or more signal processing paths, and wherein the following steps are performed repetitively:
- 5 setting, in each of said one or more signal processing paths, a symbol in the sequence to a value based on an intermediate signal derived from said first signal and a feedback signal generated on the basis of one or more 10 previously set symbols,
- 15 dividing a signal processing path, in which said intermediate signal for a given symbol exceeds a given threshold, into two separate signal processing paths,
- 20 setting said given symbol to different values in each of said two separate signal processing paths, and
- 25 selecting, after setting a number of symbols, the sequence of information symbols from one of said one or more signal processing paths as the detected sequence of information symbols,
- 30 characterized in that
- 35 said method further comprises the step of adjusting said given threshold in accordance with an estimate of noise in said intermediate signal.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said noise is

estimated by use of a known sequence of symbols in said first signal.

3. A method according to claim 2,
5 characterized in that, when said first signal includes a number of blocks of information symbols including a known sequence of symbols, said estimate of said noise is performed continuously.

10 4. A method according to claim 2 or 3,
characterized in that said noise is estimated as the mean error distance between a known sequence of symbols and the corresponding symbols of said intermediate signal multiplied by a given factor.

15 5. A method according to one or more of claims 1-4,
characterized in that a given signal processing path is cancelled when the metric thereof is larger than the metric of another given signal processing path and a given number of corresponding previously set symbols in said given and said another given signal processing are equal.

25 6. A method according to one or more of claims 1-4,
characterized in that a given signal processing path is cancelled when the metric of the given signal processing path exceeds the metric of at least one of all other signal processing paths by a given predefined amount.

30 7. A mobile station adapted to detect a sequence of information symbols from a first signal subjected to inter-symbol interference, wherein each symbol can adopt one of a number of different values, said mobile station being adapted to said detection as one or more signal processing paths, and said mobile including:

setting means adapted to setting, in each of said one or more signal processing paths, each symbol in the sequence to a value based on an intermediate signal derived from 5 said first signal and a feedback signal generated on the basis of one or more previously set symbols,

dividing means adapted to divide a signal processing path, in which said intermediate signal for a given 10 symbol exceeds a given threshold, into two separate signal processing paths, whereby said given symbol is set to different values in each of said two separate signal processing paths, and

15 selecting means adapted to selecting, after setting a number of symbols, the sequence of information symbols from one of said one or more signal processing paths as the detected sequence of information symbols,

20 characterized in that

said mobile station further comprises adjusting means adapted to adjust said given threshold in accordance with an estimate of noise in said intermediate signal.

25 8. A mobile station according to claim 7, characterized in that said adjusting means is adapted to estimate said noise using a known sequence of symbols in said first signal.

30 9. A mobile station according to claim 8, characterized in that, when said first signal includes a number of blocks of information symbols including a known sequence of symbols, said adjusting 35 means is adapted to perform said estimation of said noise continuously.

10. A mobile station according to claim 8 or 9,
characterized in that said adjusting means
is adapted to estimate said noise as the mean error
5 distance between a known sequence of symbols and the
corresponding symbols of said intermediate signal
multiplied by a given factor.
11. A mobile station according to claims 7-10,
10 characterized in that said selecting means
is further adapted to cancel a given signal processing
path, when the metric thereof is larger than the metric
of another given signal processing path, and a given
15 number of corresponding previously set symbols in said
given and said another given signal processing are equal.
12. A mobile station according to claims 7-10,
characterized in that said selecting means
is further adapted to cancel a given signal processing
20 path when the metric of the given signal processing path
exceeds the metric of at least one of all other signal
processing path by a given predefined amount.